## **Aquatic Nuisance Species**

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are a threat to water resources and visitor use within the park. In Montana, the primary vector for introduction and transport of aquatic invasive species is recreational anglers and boat users. Given the yearly influx of anglers to the Big Hole River and the North Fork of the Big Hole River, the odds of ANS introduction to the park is relatively high. Montana has an appointed ANS Technical Committee which reports which species are "present and established in Montana and have the potential to spread."

## What Can I Do to Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species?

Help the National Park Service by being aware and avoiding transport of these unwanted visitors. Invasive species are having a huge impact on our resources nationwide. It is much easier to prevent the spread of invasive species than to try to eradicate them once they are introduced.

Before moving to a new location in a different body of water:

**CHECK** your clothing, shoes, waders, gear, and all items that have been in the water for mud and plant debris. **REMOVE** the material and leave on site. Empty all water from your gear. At home **DISINFECT** your gear using one of these three methods:

- 1) WASH gear with hot water and ONE of the following:
  - dish soap (1 cup detergent per gallon water)
  - bleach (1/2 cup bleach per gallon water)
  - table salt (1 cup salt per 1 1/4 gallons water)

**SCRUB** non-absorbent items thoroughly with one of the solutions. **SOAK** clothes, waders, and

absorbent items in HOT soapy or salty water for 30 minutes, then rinse.

- 2) Or, **FREEZE** gear until frozen solid and completely dry.
- 3) Or, **DRY** completely for at least 48 hours.

**DISPOSE** of disinfection solution into a treated wastewater system. Soap solution should only be disposed of into wastewater system. Other disinfection solutions can be disposed of outdoors, but dispose at least 350 feet from water.

**CAMPING** or **WILDERNESS**: Follow the guidelines above for checking and removing debris from your clothing and gear, and **DRY** your items completely for at least 48 hours before entering a new waterbody, or carry "clean" gear for use in other waters.

**AVOID FELT-SOLE WADERS:** Use non-absorbent alternatives, including carbide stud replacement soles, detachable cleats, and sticky rubber.

**NEVER TRANSPORT** live fish or other aquatic animals or plants from one body of water to another.

Adapted from http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/upload/Didymo-fact-sheet-04-10.pdf.